

AMMUNITION.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

*Report of the officer in charge of the Ordnance Bureau, relative to ammunition.*

JANUARY 11, 1845.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 7, 1845.*

SIR: In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 23d ultimo, requiring the Secretary of War "to furnish the House of Representatives with information as to the quantity of ammunition of the various kinds annually used in the respective services under his control; also, what quantity has the military service now on hand; and what quantity of the different kinds is deemed expedient or necessary to keep on hand, to be in proper proportion to our other military resources," I transmit, herewith, a report of the officer in charge of the Ordnance Bureau, which, it is believed, contains the best information that can now be furnished by this department, in compliance with the resolution.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

WM. WILKINS,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. J. W. JONES,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

ORDNANCE OFFICE,  
*Washington, January 7, 1845.*

SIR: In reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives of 23d ultimo, referred to this office, calling for information as to "the quantity of ammunition of the various kinds annually used in the respective services under your control; also, what quantity has the military service on hand; and what quantity of the different kinds is deemed expedient or necessary



to keep on hand, to be in proper proportion to our other military resources," I have the honor to report :

The annual consumption for authorized practice-firing amounts to 3,566 rounds of fixed ammunition for cannon and howitzers, and 1,922 rounds of blank cartridges for the same; for salutes, 4,800 rounds; and for morning and evening guns, 58,400 rounds; the whole requiring (by estimation) 134,560 pounds of cannon powder. The practice with small arms requires about 730,000 blank cartridges, and 365,000 ball cartridges.

The quantity on hand is shown by the tabular statement herewith, viz: the quantity of every description, on the 30th of June last, at each of the several arsenals and ordnance depots; and an aggregate of the quantities on hand, at same time, at the various fortifications..

As to the quantity necessary to be kept on hand, "to be in proper proportion to our other military resources," I consider the quantities shown by this statement to be in fair proportion, with the exception of cartridges for small arms, which are somewhat in excess, and the shot and shells, which are deficient. The quantities of saltpetre and brimstone should be largely increased, as they are indispensable in the manufacture of powder, (great additional quantities of which would be necessary in the event of a war,) and as they may be kept for any length of time without being subject to loss from decay, or even to deterioration.

The resolution is, herewith, returned.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

G. TALCOTT,

*Lieutenant Colonel of Ordnance.*

Hon. WILLIAM WILKINS,  
*Secretary of War.*



*Statement of the ammunition on hand at the several military arsenals and depots, reported good and fit for service, per inventories of June 30, 1844; prepared in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of December 23, 1844.*

Arsenals and depots.	Cannon balls, of all sizes.	Shells, of all kinds.	Carcasses.	Strapped shot.	Strapped shot—fixed.	Spherical case shot.	Canister shot.	Canister shot—fixed.	Grape shot.	Grape and canister shot—loose pounds.	Cannon powder—pounds.	Musket powder—pounds.	Rifle powder—pounds.
Allegheny.....	35,029	2,179			21			295	1,708	38,374	36,338	7,487	10,600
Apalachicola.....	17			24			245	40			19,895	15,050	1,800
Augusta.....	1,561						1,233	254			4,188	8,976	10,837
Baton Rouge.....	36,080	512		786	152		1,812	358	1,735	40,400	20,300	24,877	11,910
Champlain.....	17,050	866			512	109		262		9,541	5,000	1,009	5,192
Charleston.....	7,314	180				1,281	927	3	1,093	4,064	6,973	5,354	2,334
Detroit.....	6,709	614			380		377	761		8,504	344	14,080	7,575
Fort Monroe.....	33,914	4,718		260	253	2,494	635		124	4,590	75,232	2,400	731
Frankford.....	15,629	3,111		24	23	118	1,030	24	190		83,429	22,385	6,498
Kennebec.....	5,000	500		196							28,327	14,034	5,000
Little Rock.....				101	299			794			25		2,275
Missouri.....											1,820	10,000	5,000
Mount Vernon.....	1,717	2,372								4,540	127,900	21,000	17,700
New York.....	38,133	5,625		75	698	269	31	486	84	43,206	3,277	2,219	1,306
North Carolina.....	427	60									73		
Pikesville.....	4,527	2,118								30,000	26,251	17,729	765
Rome.....	2,324	1,594	1,214			9,546				58,200	9,970	9,094	
Rock Island.....											200	200	
St. Louis.....	26,584	419		1,486			746	3,118	821	11,980	59,553	26,643	2,741
St. Augustine.....	709	254			207	39		104	223		1,640	174	521
Washington.....	37,521	4,811			133		13,520	64	11,611		97,726	3,021	1,459
Watertown.....	46,581	4,053	441		760	2,628			2,154	123,037	98,680	19,695	
Watervliet.....	7,251	2,760	52	2,163		154	1,282	1,132	744	42,975	19,100	14,200	35,000
Total.....	324,077	36,746	1,707	5,115	3,438	16,638	20,838	7,695	20,484	419,411	726,241	239,627	129,244
Aggregate at the several fortifications.....	124,898	8,265		1,203	20,091	1,204	3,923	2,909	9,001	12,898	91,241	8,517	4,434
Aggregate in mil. service	448,975	45,011	1,707	6,318	23,529	17,842	24,761	10,604	29,485	432,309	817,482	248,144	133,678



*Statement of ammunition on hand—Continued.*

Arsenals and depots.	Flannel cartridge- es, of all sizes.	Flannel cartridge bags.	Paper cartridge bags, including those with flannel bottoms.	Musket ball cartridge- tridges.	Musket buck and ball cartridges.	Musket buckshot cartridges.	Musket tinfoil cartridges.	Musket blank cartridges.	Rifle ball cartridge- tridges.	Rifle tinfoil cartridge- tridges.	Rifle blank cartridge- tridges.	Pistol ball cartridge- tridges.
Allegheny.....	24	363	436	.....	115,000	.....	.....	.....	87,200	.....	.....	26,080
Apalachicola.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000	240,000	106,600	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,600
Augusta.....	.....	.....	.....	93,700	58,490	1,190	.....	.....	11,180	.....	.....	.....
Baton Rouge.....	.....	.....	.....	203,630	43,370	20,048	.....	.....	4,600	.....	.....	4,890
Champlain.....	138	.....	3,547	133,300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Charleston.....	.....	256	237	.....	16,560	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Detroit.....	.....	.....	.....	3,700	22,550	.....	.....	210	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fort Monroe.....	70	2,023	.....	15,000	31,085	10,185	.....	5,520	.....	.....	.....	900
Frankford.....	140	7,317	2,223	31,306	2,170	.....	.....	46,950	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kennebec.....	.....	833	690	34,800	11,100	.....	.....	20,200	.....	.....	.....	.....
Little Rock.....	527	.....	.....	306,770	673,330	.....	.....	.....	2,620	.....	.....	.....
Missouri.....	.....	.....	4,641	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34,900	.....	.....	23,120
Mount Vernon.....	390	563	.....	20,000	80,180	42,280	.....	.....	20,800	.....	.....	22,300
New York.....	3	248	48	2,800	264,597	53,480	150,000	.....	9,634	50,000	.....	10,030
North Carolina.....	.....	96	.....	8,000	4,030	.....	.....	20,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pikesville.....	.....	380	2,051	256,880	100	.....	.....	3,116	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rome.....	3,092	6,034	.....	205,430	1,230	.....	.....	19,680	23,400	.....	.....	33,720
Rock Island.....	.....	.....	.....	5,000	20,000	.....	.....	.....	5,000	.....	.....	5,000
St. Louis.....	224	204	.....	1,090,885	11,000	40,160	.....	20,520	134,330	.....	.....	93
St. Augustine.....	50	750	.....	.....	99,529	23,315	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,738
Washington.....	201	1,275	278	313,330	14,190	.....	.....	44,610	5,080	.....	5,500	14,040
Watertown.....	214	669	1,753	65,102	.....	.....	.....	13,772	.....	.....	.....	558
Watervliet.....	937	9,843	10,775	280,070	84,080	46,000	.....	10,640	8,405	.....	1,250	20,470
Total.....	6,055	30,874	26,679	3,072,703	1,782,591	343,258	150,000	205,218	347,149	50,000	6,750	180,539
Aggregate at the several fortifications.....	5,708	17,053	13,731	440,920	163,767	.....	.....	254,820	146,310	.....	.....	69,242
Aggregate in mil. service	11,763	47,927	40,410	3,513,623	1,946,358	343,258	150,000	460,038	493,459	50,000	6,750	249,781



*Statement of ammunition on hand—Continued.*

Arsenals and depots.	Pistol blank cartridges.	Carbine ball cartridges.	Carbine buck & ball cartridges.	Carbine tinfoil cartridges.	Carbine blank cartridges.	Musket, rifle, & pistol balls—loose pounds.	Buckshot—lbs.	Cartridge paper, of all descriptions—lbs.	Refined nitre—pounds.	Fused saltpetre—pounds.	Refined sulphur—pounds.	Roll, crude, and pulverized brimstone—lbs.
Allegheny.....						31,903	1,646	11,305	351			
Apalachicola.....			110,950			697		7,701				
Augusta.....								7,029	2,012		76	143
Baton Rouge.....	9,980	54,550				13,399	3,420	17,862				380
Champlain.....						4,394	408	2,588	87		60	
Charleston.....			1,420			11,071	95	7,830				
Detroit.....		1,000				23,812	7,715	3,925				
Fort Monroe.....		520						3,049	725		385	35
Frankford.....		6,690				21,325	8,374	5,788	1,679,138	319,897	318,313	158,210
Kennebec.....						1,583	216	5,457	68		170	
Little Rock.....						6,998						
Missouri.....		31,200				100,000						
Mount Vernon.....		48,950	21,000			970	1,125	12,460				
New York.....		15,000	70,560	40,000		1,500		11,078				
North Carolina.....												
Pikesville.....						3,976		4,619	778			930
Rome.....						44,555	9,112	979	5		25	
Rock Island.....		5,000										
St. Louis.....	2,260	73,753	47,380		870	27,332	2,553	7,437	520		284	
St. Augustine.....			21,240			956		30				
Washington.....			165,540		4,730	6,360	1,837	10,074	130		595	
Watertown.....						14,426	1,633	10,636	3,901	254,141		56,647
Watervliet.....	1,500	10,000			20,870	17,352	15,900	19,746	2,769		1,075	640
Total.....	13,740	246,663	622,590	40,000	26,400	332,611	54,034	143,593	1,382,791	574,038	315,983	216,985
Aggregate at the several fortifications.....	61,492	118,248	57,116		99,880	12,581		947			141	
Aggregate in mil. service	75,232	364,911	679,706	40,000	126,280	345,192	54,034	144,540	1,382,791	574,038	316,124	216,985

ORDNANCE OFFICE, Washington January 7, 1845.

G. TALCOTT, Lieut. Col. Ordnance.



